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LETTER DATED 6 OCTOBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your attention, a telegram addressed to you and the members of the Security Council from Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan, concerning the Ugandan-Eritrean military attack on Sudanese territory.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih ERWA
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 6 October 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council

1. I refer to the previous letters addressed to you by the Government of the Sudan, the most recent dated 13 March 1997 (S/1997/223), giving details of repeated Ugandan attacks on the southern border of the Sudan and blatant interference by Uganda in the internal affairs of the Sudan through the stirring up of separatist conflicts that threaten the country's national unity. I regret to inform you that the Ugandan Government continues to carry out attacks against and threaten the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Sudan.

2. In recent weeks the Government of the Sudan has continued to observe Ugandan military movements hostile to the Sudan, such as the Ugandan Government push on 3 September 1998 using the 5th infantry brigade supported by 20 T-55 main battle tanks and 10 armoured cars from the Qulu region to the Katqum region inside Ugandan territory and thence to Sudanese territory. This incident took place on the same day that the rebel leader John Garang arrived in the Ugandan capital, Kampala. Top-ranking Ugandan military leaders such as Major General Salim Salih have also visited areas on the southern Sudanese-Ugandan border that are outside Sudanese Government control.

3. On 14 September 1998 the above-mentioned forces, supported by Eritrean forces, began to attack Sudanese armed forces using heavy artillery and weapons. The attack came from three areas along the northern Ugandan border: the first near Liria, the second in the direction of Nanqala and the third near Jabalayn. The object of this attack was to menace the regional capital, Juba, and the two towns of Kabwiti and Turit in eastern Equatoria Province.

4. Our armed forces were able to repel the attack and drive away the invaders. Many Ugandan soldiers were taken prisoner and others killed. Our forces captured a number of enemy tanks, one of which, No. 603, was in perfect condition and had its complete crew on board. They also captured ammunition and small arms and removed military insignia from the uniforms of Ugandan casualties. All of this will be made public in due course.

5. I am sure you have been following the efforts of the Sudanese Government, the international community and the States of the region to bring peace to the Sudan. The Government of the Sudan considers that this Ugandan-Eritrean attack is likely to prolong the present war and increase the humanitarian suffering of the people of the region. In bringing this information to your attention, therefore, the Sudanese Government is hopeful that the Security Council will fully shoulder its responsibility to maintain international peace and security and take note of my Government's request that Uganda and Eritrea cease their aggression, withdraw their forces from Sudanese territory and prevent them from repeating such attacks. Our information affirms that the Government of Uganda is determined to send additional troops, led by the Ugandan 7th Brigade, into Sudanese territory, with a view to providing support to rebel forces in the southern Sudan.